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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,848	03/06/2000	Mrudula Kanuri	95-307	8165

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MANELLI DENISON & SELTER
2000 M STREET NW SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3307

EXAMINER

GEORGE, KEITH M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2663	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/519,848	KANURI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Keith M. George	2663	

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2000.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 3-7,12 and 13 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2 & 3</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hoffman et al., U.S. Patent 6,094,435, hereinafter Hoffman. Hoffman teaches layer 2 information stored in a memory. The entry contains information relating to source and destination aging. Destination aging in the network element indicates which layer 2 and layer 3 entries are active (determine an application state). The information implements in accordance with IEEE standard 802.1d type address aging (delete an address entry from a network switch address table based on the application state) (column 16, lines 43-53).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Perlman et al., U.S. Patent 5,128,926, hereinafter Perlman. Hoffman teaches the method described in reference to claim 1 above with the possible exception of storing a plurality of templates configured for identifying the application state. Perlman teaches that information is communicated through a network along a myriad of links interconnected by nodes. Each node must know the states (e.g., operative or inoperative) (identify the application state) of the links in the network in order to send packets along effective paths (column 1, lines 20-28). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the knowledge of application state taught by Perlman in the aging method of Hoffman. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to send packets along effective paths to their respective destinations, avoiding, for example, faulty links or routers (Perlman, column 1, lines 26-28).

5. Claims 8-9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Kadambi et al., U.S. Patent 6,104,696, hereinafter Kadambi.

6. Referring to claims 8 and 11, Hoffman teaches the method described in reference to claim 1 above with the possible exception of an application-specific aging timer configure for counting an application-specific aging interval. Kadambi teaches that each Ethernet Port Interface Controller (EPIC) is provided with an age timer and in figure 18, step 18-1, it is determined whether the age timer has expired. Kadambi goes on to teach in step 18-8 that if the hit bit is not set, the ARL entry is deleted (column 22, line 63 - column 23, line 17). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the aging timers of Kadambi in the aging method of Hoffman. One of ordinary skill in the

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art would have been motivated to do this to ensure that only current and active address information is maintained in the tables (Kadambi, column 22, lines 32-34).

7. Referring to claim 9, Hoffman and Kadambi teach the method described in reference to claim 8 above with the possible exception of resetting the timer in response to detecting and access of the address entry. Kadambi teaches in step 18-6 to check the hit bit and if it is set the method proceeds to step 18-3 and the entry is not deleted.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 3-7 and 12-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Ericson et al., U.S. Patent 5,748,628, teaches a layer 2 data base stored in the memory and which associates each set of one of a plurality of layer 2 input events with one of a plurality of predetermined subroutines.

b. Agrawal et al., U.S. Patent 6,072,809, teaches a system control unit that initializes an aging flag indicating whether aging is on or off. If aging is on, the aging coefficient, supplied by a user or an application, determines how often the packets should be aged.

c. Sekine et al., U.S. Patent 6,101,188, teaches that according to the IEEE 802.1D standards, each entry of any address learning table is made invalid when a certain time elapses after it is learned last, and must be deleted from the table. The aging process is started periodically by timer interruption and effects maintenance of the aging counters of the individual entries of address learning tables.

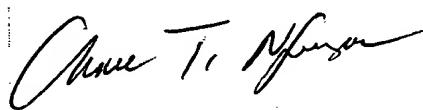
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Keith M. George whose telephone number is 703-305-6531. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:00-4:30, every other F 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau T. Nguyen can be reached on 703-308-5340. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9315 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4750.



Keith M. George
July 7, 2003



CHAU NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600